

Message Text

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TO USLO PEKING

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH, US, TW

SUBJECT: MANSFIELD UPI INTERVIEW

REF: PEKING 315

1. FOLLOWING UPI STORY APPEARED IN NEW YORK DAILY NEWS
FEBRUARY 24, HEADLINED "MANSFIELD URGES CUTBACK OF
US FORCES ON TAIWAN."

2. BEGIN TEXT

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER MIKE MANSFIELD (D-MONT.) URGED THE
UNITED STATES TODAY TO REDUCE ITS FORCE OF 4,500 MEN ON
TAIWAN AS A STEP TOWARD IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH PEKING.

HOWEVER, HE REJECTED SUGGESTIONS THAT THE U.S. BREAK OFF
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE NATIONALIST GOVERNMENT ON
TAIWAN, OR ABROGATE THE U.S.-NATIONALIST CHINESE DEFENSE
TREATY.

THE U.S. RECOGNIZES NATIONALIST CHINA AS AN INDEPENDENT
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GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA CONSIDERS

TAIWAN A PROVINCE OF THE MAINLAND.

MANSFIELD CITED THE U.S.-CHINESE "SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE" OF 1972, WHICH CALLED FOR REDUCTION OF U.S. MILITARY FORCES IN AREAS NEAR CHINA. BEFORE THE VIETNAM WAR, THE U.S. MAINTAINED ABOUT 3,000 TROOPS ON TAIWAN, AND HE SAID THE PRESENT FORCE COULD BE CUT BACK WITHOUT ILL EFFECT.

MANSFIELD URGED THAT THE U.S. PHASE OUT ITS MILITARY ASSISTANCE MISSION TO THE NATIONALIST CHINESE AND REVIEW TREATY ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE NATIONALIST GOVERNMENT. BUT HE SAID ABROGATION OF SUCH ARRANGEMENTS NOW WOULD BE "TOO PRECIPITATE."

MANSFIELD SAID THAT THE NATIONALISTS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO NEGOTIATE WITH PEKING ON REUNIFICATION OF TAIWAN WITH THE MAINLAND. HE SAID THE QUESTION OF "SURVIVAL" WOULD BE A PRIMARY INCENTIVE FOR THE NATIONALISTS IN UNDERTAKING SUCH TALKS WITH COMMUNIST CHINA.

PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT TO PEKING LATER THIS YEAR IS EXPECTED TO LEND URGENCY TO IMPROVING U.S. RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST CHINA.

MANSFIELD, CHAIRMAN OF THE FAR EASTERN SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE LAUDED FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON'S REESTABLISHMENT OF CONTACTS WITH PEKING.

END TEXT. KISSINGER

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